Case 2947

Patella longicosta Lamarck, 1819 (Mollusca, Gastropoda): proposed conservation of the specific name

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the well established specific name of the South African limpet currently known as *Patella longicosta* Lamarck, 1819, which is threatened by the unused senior synonym *Patella digitata* Fischer von Waldheim, 1807.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Gastropoda; limpets; *Patella*; South Africa.

1. In the third volume of his catalogue of the 'Muséum-Demidoff' Fischer von Waldheim (1807) described more than a hundred new molluscan taxa. These were not illustrated and the majority of the names have not been used by subsequent authors.

2. Ivanov, Kantor, Sysoev & Egorov (1993) recently published a paper detailing the subsequent history of the Demidoff collections and discussed and figured the types extant in the collections of the Zoological Museum of Moscow State University.

3. Ivanov et al. made some suggestions regarding the status of a number of these names and their relationships to other described taxa. In several instances the Demidoff material is clearly referable to species known from South Africa (confirmed by examination of the type specimens). In the case of one patellid limpet, the Fischer name pre-dates the currently used name for the species.

4. In this instance *Patella digitata* Fischer von Waldheim, 1807 (p. 115) appears not to have been used since its original publication whilst the junior synonym, *Patella longicosta* Lamarck, 1819 (p. 326), has been utilised extensively in both the scientific and popular literature pertaining to the southern African marine fauna (e.g. Barnard, 1951, p. 126; Branch, 1984, p. 62; 1985a, p. 109; 1985b, p. 210; Branch & Griffiths, 1988, p. 410; Christiaens, 1973, p. 1349; Day, 1969, p. 156; Jamieson, Hodgson & Bernard, 1991, p. 138; Kennelly, 1969, p. 59; Kensley, 1973, p. 20; Kilburn & Rippey, 1982, p. 38; Koch, 1949, p. 504; Powell, 1973, p. 125; Richards, 1981, p. 30). The extent of usage of *P. longicosta* meets the prima facie criteria for conservation set out in Article 79c of the Code, and the existence of the Fischer von Waldheim name clearly threatens the stability of long established nomenclature.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *digitata* Fischer von Waldheim, 1807, as published in the binomen *Patella digitata*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *longicosta* Lamarck, 1819, as published in the binomen *Patella longicosta*;

(3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *digitata* Fischer von Waldheim, 1807, as published in the binomen *Patella digitata* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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